GENERAL NOTES.

SOME NOTES ON THE REDPOLLS OF DUNN COUNTY, WIS.—REDPOLL, *Acanthis linaria.*—A regular winter visitant, but much more abundant some winters than others. This was fully verified the past winter of 1895–6, when they first appeared about November 13, and increased in numbers until mid-winter, when thousands might be seen in a flock feeding on the various rank weeds of neglected fields, preference being given to the pigweed. The Redpolls roost in oak trees among the dried leaves that still remain on the lower branches, and are off to the fields at the first indications of day. The last were seen April 16, in small numbers. They were much more musical and restless during March and April. The red on rump and breast of the males was somewhat brighter during these months, and nearly all males showed slight traces of it on cheeks and breast. The greatest length of this species of more than one hundred specimens measured, was 5.65, shortest, 5.20 inches.

GREATER REDPOLL, *Acanthis linaria rostrata.*—This species was first seen January 9, 1896, and eight specimens taken from a small flock accompanied by about an equal number of *linaria*. They were feeding on the seeds of water pepper that grew in abundance on a tract of low timber-land. Thirty specimens of this variety were examined during the winter, all but two of which were taken in this same woods, and nearly always in small flocks, with more or less of the first species. They were generally darker in plumage, bill shorter and thicker, and of a larger size. They may be readily distinguished from *linaria* at a short distance when feeding. The voice resembles that of *linaria*, but is coarser and louder. Greatest length of males measured was 6.20 inches. Shortest length of males measured was 5.85 inches. Greatest length of females measured was 5.90 inches. Shortest length of females measured was 5.80 inches. Last seen March 26.

HOLBOELL'S REDPOLL, *Acanthis linaria holboellii.*—Of this variety three specimens were taken. One January 22, 1896, one March 25, 1896, and one April 3, 1896. All were identified by Dr. A. K. Fisher and Prof. Ridgway, through the kindness of Mr. Lynds Jones, to whom I am also indebted for the identification of *rostrata* and *exilipes*. The first was shot from the top of a maple tree, also a specimen of *linaria* was killed at the same shot, no others being near. The last two specimens were taken from quite large flocks of *linaria*, while on the ground, their darker

plumage having attracted my attention. The three specimens measured in length 5.75, 5.60 and 5.60 respectively.

HOARY REDPOLL, *Acanthis hornemannii exilipes*.—I first met with this species December 13, 1896, when a single individual was taken in a small flock of *linaria*. The species was found after this during the whole winter in small numbers, and nearly always in small flocks of *linaria*, frequently of but two or three individuals, they seeming to avoid the large flocks. The birds were mostly found feeding on pigweed, which seems to be their favorite food, as well as of *linaria*. They are mostly lighter in color and slightly larger than *linaria*, and are easily distinguished from the other species at some distance. Of thirty-one specimens examined, the largest measured in length 6.70 inches, and the smallest 5.40 inches. The specimens I have examined appear to have been mostly young birds, only three showing any red on the breast, and those only slightly. I could detect no difference in the voice of this species and *linaria*. The last was seen March 26.—J. N. CLARK, *Meridian, Wis.*

NOTES FROM SOUTHERN WISCONSIN.—HOLBOELL'S GREBE, *Colymbus holboellii*.—A single male taken at Delavan Lake, November 15, 1895. Only specimen noted during several years' close observations among the water birds.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT, *Phalacrocorax dilophus*.—I recently had the pleasure of examining a fine male, shot at Delavan Lake, April 6, 1896. It was a single bird and is the only specimen ever taken in this vicinity, for many years, at least; although I have long felt sure of its occurrence, having several times seen single birds which I took to be Cormorants.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*. — Three White Pelicans were seen on the "Sand Bar," at Delavan Lake, June 6, 1895. They allowed a fishing boat to approach within about fifteen rods of the bar before they walked into the water and swam away in the opposite direction. This recalls in the minds of old sportsmen the occurence of several on a neighboring lake several years ago, also during the summer.

KING RAIL, *Rallus elegans*.—I think this is a much more common species in Wisconsin than is generally supposed, although I have examined only three specimens from this locality. The first a fine male which I shot myself on September 2, 1892. Since then I have seen two immature specimens, one of which I was fortunate enough to secure. Another fine adult was seen this spring on May 3.